# Perspectives on hyperspectral optics and remote sensing

Ali Chase, Applied Physics Laboratory – University of Washington, USA IOCCG Summer Lecture Series, 26 July 2022, Villefranche-sur-Mer, France

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#### Who am I?

2005 – 2009 B.A. Geology/Environmental Studies, Bowdoin College, Advisor: Collin Roesler

2010 – 2012 Research Associate, Atmospheric & Environmental Research, Lexington MA, USA

2012 – 2020 M.S. & PhD Oceanography, University of Maine, Advisors: Emmanuel Boss & Lee Karp-Boss

2020 – present Postdoc, AIRS Department, Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington



Ocean Optics Summer Course, 2011 Darling Marine Center, Maine USA

















#### Current areas of research

1. Algorithms for remote sensing observation of phytoplankton community composition



2. Open-source tools for plankton image classification using

deep learning networks



ifcbUTOPIA

User-friendly Tools for Oceanic Plankton Image Analysis (UTOPIA) is for use with data from the Imaging FlowCytobot (IFCB)



3. Observing & exploring phytoplankton at the (sub)mesoscale using continuous optics & imaging systems

4. Phytoplankton communities and environmental parameters in the Puget Sound



# What do you like to do outside of science?

Bike trips	Hang out with dogs	Writing proposals
camping, walking, outdoor sports	Canoe	Surfing! Reading science fiction! Coffee on Sunday mornings.
Scuba diving	Climbing	Boating

Mentimeter



#### **Lecture Motivation**

The potential to extract information from hyperspectral optical & ocean color measurements (in situ and remote sensing) receives a great deal of attention. Technology advances mean that hyperspectral data will become more and more ubiquitous. Understanding what has been done, current limitations, and the opportunities will help us move forward as effectively as possible.

Slide content inspired by and with info from Heidi Dierssen (UConn), Patrick Gray (Duke), & many papers (see references at the end)

#### Lecture outline & key topics

Current capabilities of hyperspectral optics & remote sensing

Approaches to extracting information from hyperspectral measurements

Applications to the coastal & complex aquatic ecosystem community

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# History of hyperspectral optics

1970s – Foundational work for much of today's ocean color remote sensing research

Assessment of Aquatic Environments by Remote Sensing (Adams et al., 1977)

- Laboratory reflectance measurements; "fingerprints" of different algal types

#### From Morel and Prieur, 1977:

"If we attempt to distinguish between more than two absorbing agents, such as different chlorophyll forms, pheopigments, or yellow substance, etc., the above conclusion remains valid according to the available results for their specific absorption spectra. The fact that, whatever the wavelength, several absorbers come into play does not prevent solution of the problem, at least from a theoretical point of view. Multispectral measurements in relative units at N+ 1 wavelengths allow the inference of concentration of N absorbing compounds...Further efforts are required to develop such a catalogue of spectral signatures."

Hydrolight software (Mobley, 1994)

- Radiative transfer-based simulations of spectral reflectance, used in many types of studies

## Ocean color remote sensing: the motivation & the challenge



Adapted from M. J. Perry

# In situ instrumentation & laboratory measurements

- ac-s (absorption and attenuation in the visible wavelengths)
- Bench-top spectrophotometers
- HyperBB (backscattering)
- ALFA spectral fluorescence
- Radiometric measurements (e.g., hyperPro, hyperSAS, TriOS, Triaxus)



## Spectral absorption & attenuation from underway ac-s deployments

- Tara Oceans
- Tara Polar Circle
- NAAMES
- SABOR
- Line P
- Tara Mediterranean
- PEACETIME





# Hyperspectral $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ measured in situ



 $E_d$  = downwelling irradiance

## Hyperspectral fluorescence emission & spectral deconvolution



**Figure 2.4** General characteristics of fluorescence excitation (Ex) and emission (Em) spectra for various groups of phytoplankton. Phytoplankton taxa with phycobiliproteins (cyanobacteria, cryptomonads) have distinctive emission peaks compared to other groups. Excitation spectra exhibit more subtle variations according to photosynthetic accessory pigment composition. Modified from Yentsch and Phinney (1985).



#### Chekalyuk and Hafez, 2013



Tara Polar Circle, 2013 Trade-offs for spatial and temporal resolution – how can we scale up to regional and global views?





# Drones address an observational blind spot for biological oceanography

Patrick Clifton Gray\*, Gregory D Larsen, and David W Johnston



Gray et al., 2022 Front Ecol Environ

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# Ocean Color measurements made from UAVs (a.k.a. drones)

- Well suited for coastal and estuarine areas (perhaps less so for open ocean work)
- Point spectrometer measurements are simpler and may provide better data in some cases compared to imagery
- Multispectral cameras are currently much cheaper and can be sufficient in many cases
- Challenges arise from viewing angle geometries and subsequent variability of sea and sky radiance across an image
- In situ measurements can be used to accurately remove reflected skylight during calculations of R<sub>rs</sub> (Gray et al., 2022 L&O Methods)
- Longer flight times from large, gas-powered drones would improve the limited coverage of a typical drone flight
- RGB imagery can be used to visualize complex regions

# Airborne Imaging Spectrometry

High-resolution airborne hyperspectral sensors: AVIRIS, AISA, HyMAP, PRISM, APEX, OMIS, PHI, PHILLS



- Good for water quality algorithm development and applications in inland and coastal waters
- "Medium-scale" surveys of macrophytes (e.g., kelp, seagrasses), coral reefs, water contaminants
- Useful for design tests for satellite-based systems, and/or test atmospheric correction procedures
- Limited in spatial coverage and revisit time
- Some challenges with relatively low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and a limited dynamic range

Spectral, spatial, and temporal resolution of ocean color missions



Modified from Hestir et al., 2015

# HICO – Hyperspectral Imager for the Coastal Ocean

- 2009-2014 on the ISS
- 3.6 nm spectral resolution across 400-900 nm in the visible
- ~90 m spatial resolution
- User-selected target (~2000 images per year)



Image of Monterey Bay, CA, USA in fall 2011

ARPH = adaptive reflectance peak height

Ryan et al., 2014

### PACE - Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem

- Hyperspectral OCI (Ocean Color Instrument) and two polarimeters
- 5 nm resolution from 320 890 nm, also 7 SWIR bands
- 1 km spatial resolution
- Anticipated launch in January 2024

	PACE		
	VIIRS (2011-)		
NASA Satellite ocean color 🛛 🚽	MODIS (2002-)*	11	
missions	SeaWiFS (1997-2010)	I	
	CZCS (1978-1985) (	I	PACE simulation https://pace.gsfc.nasa.gov/

# GLIMR – Geostationary Littoral Imaging and Monitoring Radiometer

- Planned launch in 2026, geostationary over the Gulf of Mexico w/views of North & South America
- Hyperspectral imager for 340-1040 nm
- 300 m spatial resolution at nadir, ~hourly measurements
- Two main science goals:
  - 1. Understand the processes contributing to rapid changes in phytoplankton growth rate and community composition.
  - 2. Quantify how high frequency fluxes of sediments, organic matter, and other materials between and within coastal ecosystems regulate the productivity and health of coastal ecosystems.



#### CHIME - Copernicus Hyperspectral Imaging Mission for the Environment



- Planned launch around 2029
- Lake and coastal ecosystem monitoring
- AVIRIS images and coincident ground measurements to aid with instrument development
- Additional coordination with PRISMA and DESIS

#### Lecture outline & key topics

Current capabilities of hyperspectral optics & remote sensing

# Approaches to extracting information from hyperspectral measurements

Applications to the coastal & complex aquatic ecosystem community

#### Living up to the Hype of Hyperspectral Aquatic Remote Sensing: Science, Resources and Outlook

Heidi M. Dierssen<sup>1</sup>\*, Steven G. Ackleson<sup>2</sup>, Karen E. Joyce<sup>3</sup>, Erin L. Hestir<sup>4</sup>, Alexandre Castagna<sup>5</sup>, Samantha Lavender<sup>6</sup> and Margaret A. McManus<sup>7</sup>



Dierssen et al., 2021

# Approaches to extract information from hyperspectral data

Approach	Input measurements	Result/product	Target/validation data	Reference
Direct use of optical measurements: Similarity Index, EOF, and/or clustering analysis	$a_{\Phi}(\lambda)$ & 4 <sup>th</sup> derivative of spectra	% contribution of <i>G. breve</i>	G. breve field and culture data	Millie et al. 1997
	$2^{nd}$ derivative of $a_{\Phi}(\lambda)$	Diatom contribution to Chl a	CHEMTAX diatom Chl a	Isada et al. 2015
	$a_{\rm p}(\lambda)$	Cell counts and Chl a fraction of G. breve	G. breve field and culture data	Kirkpatrick et al. 2000
	$2^{nd}$ derivative of $R_{rs}(\lambda)$	Detection of Phaeocystis blooms	Microscopic identification of phytoplankton	Lubac et al. 2008
	$4^{ m th}$ derivative of $a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$ and $R_{ m rs}(\lambda)$	Differentiation of phytoplankton groups; cyanobacteria dominance in inland waters	Cultures, Hydrolight simulations, field $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ measurements	Xi et al. 2015; 2017
	Derivatives of $a_{ m p}(\lambda)$ or $a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$	Pigment assemblages or concentrations	HPLC pigments or Chl <i>a</i> concentration from fluorescence	Catlett and Siegel 2018; Shaju et al. 2015; Torrecilla et al. 2011
	R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	Pigment concentrations	HPLC pigments	Bracher et al. 2015; Kramer et al. 2022
	$a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$ and $R_{ m rs}(\lambda)$ , and derivatives	Bio-optical water categories	HPLC pigments	Uitz et al. 2015
	L <sub>u</sub> (λ)	Relative phycoerythrin concentrations	PE concentration	Taylor et al. 2013
	$a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$ and $R_{ m rs}(\lambda)$ , and $a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$ derivatives	K. brevis relative bloom strength	K. brevis absorption spectrum	Craig et al. 2006
	R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	Apparent Visible Wavelength		Vandermuelen et al. 2020; Dierssen et al. 2022
Methods of spectral inversion: Spectral inversion and Gaussian decomposition	$a_{ m p}(\lambda)$ or $a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$	Pigment concentrations or absorption	HPLC pigments	Aguirre-Gomez et al. 2001; Chase et al. 2013; Hoepffner and Sathyendranath 1991, 1993; Liu et al. 2019; Lohrenz et al. 2003; Ye et al. 2019
	R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	Contribution of phytoplankton groups to absorption	Microscopic cell counts	Roesler et al. 2004
	R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	Pigment concentrations	HPLC pigments	Chase et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2016
	R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	$a_{ m \varphi}(\lambda)$ and Chl $a$ concentrations	In situ R <sub>rs</sub> (λ)	Pahlevan et al., 2020; Pahlevan et al., 2021

#### **Data Transformations**

- Band math, derivative analysis, coordinate transformations (e.g., PCA, PLSR)



O'Reilly and Werdell, 2019

Band ratios, wl correlations, lineheight methods



Fig. 2. Example of a smoothed phytoplankton absorption spectrum (solid curve) of the BOUSSOLE time series and its fourth-derivative (dashed curve).

Organelli et al., 2013

# **Retrieval Algorithms**

- Spectra as descriptors: optical indices, cluster analyses



Heidi M. Dierssen<sup>1</sup>\*, Ryan A. Vandermeulen<sup>2,3</sup>, Brian B. Barnes<sup>4</sup>, Alexandre Castagna<sup>5</sup>, Els Knaeps<sup>6</sup> and Quinten Vanhellemont<sup>7</sup>

#### Vandermuelen et al., 2020

#### Applying Mixture Density Networks (MDN) to hyperspectral R<sub>rs</sub>



Pahlevan et al., 2021

#### Applying Mixture Density Networks (MDN) to hyperspectral R<sub>rs</sub>



Pahlevan et al., 2020

# **Retrieval Algorithms**

- Spectra as references: optimization algorithms, linear matrix inversion
- → Semi-analytical algorithms
- → Definitions of basis vectors using either a library of spectra, or simulated spectra/functions

For references categorized by the type of semi-analytic solution, see **Table 4** in:

Review Progress in Oceanography 160 (2018) 186–212

An overview of approaches and challenges for retrieving marine inherent optical properties from ocean color remote sensing

P. Jeremy Werdell<sup>a,\*</sup>, Lachlan I.W. McKinna<sup>a,b</sup>, Emmanuel Boss<sup>c</sup>, Steven G. Ackleson<sup>d</sup>, Susanne E. Craig<sup>a,e,1</sup>, Watson W. Gregg<sup>f</sup>, Zhongping Lee<sup>g</sup>, Stéphane Maritorena<sup>h</sup>, Collin S. Roesler<sup>i</sup>, Cécile S. Rousseaux<sup>e,f,2</sup>, Dariusz Stramski<sup>j</sup>, James M. Sullivan<sup>k</sup>, Michael S. Twardowski<sup>k</sup>, Maria Tzortziou<sup>1,m</sup>, Xiaodong Zhang<sup>n</sup>

## Phytoplankton pigments drive spectral absorption features



data from Bidigare et al. 1990

#### But does the inversion problem become ill-posed?



Cael et al. 2020
# Phytoplankton pigments estimated from ac-s absorption spectra



Chase et al., 2013



# Incorporating Gaussian functions into $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ inversion



 $u(\lambda) \equiv \frac{b_b(\lambda)}{a(\lambda) + b_b(\lambda)},$ 

 $r_{rs}(\lambda) = g_1 u(\lambda) + g_2 u(\lambda)^2$ 

 $u = u_{meas}$ g1 = 0.0949 and g2 = 0.0794 (Gordon et al. 1988)

$$u_{mod}(\lambda) = \frac{b_{bp}(\lambda) + b_{bw}(\lambda)}{a_{\varphi}(\lambda) + a_{CDOM}(\lambda) + a_{NAP}(\lambda) + a_{w}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda) + b_{bw}(\lambda),}$$

$$\int_{a_{\varphi}(\lambda) = \sum_{i=1}^{8} a_{gaus}(peak_{i}, \lambda)e^{\left(-0.5\left(\frac{\lambda - peak_{i}}{a_{i}}\right)\right)^{2}},$$

$$\chi^{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{60} \left(\frac{u_{meas}(\lambda_{i}) - u_{mod}(\lambda_{i})}{u_{std}(\lambda_{i})}\right)^{2}, \quad \text{60 wavelengths}$$
between 400-600 nm

Lee et al. 2002

## Pigments estimated from $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ spectra measured *in situ*



## But most pigments are correlated with Chl a...



## How can we move beyond what is extractable from correlations with Chl *a*?



## Considerations of error, & going beyond Chl a

From Cael et al. (2020):

- Error is the difference between having four to five DoF rather than >60, and the difference between being able to meaningfully invert for four spectra versus 44
- Some errors such as random electronic noise can be reduced by averaging many measurements in time or space. Others, such a bias in calibration, cannot.
- While all of the optical variation in the water cannot be said to fall along a single axis, it does appear that much of the variation in the surface covaries with [Chl]. Thus, the interest in going "beyond chlorophyll" can be considered an interest in deviations from this axis.
- Polarization will help better separate oceanic and atmospheric contributions to the total signal, and UV will help better separate CDOM, NAP, and phytoplankton contributions to the oceanic signal. These deviations are by definition second order—though we note emphatically that this does not make them unimportant or uninteresting!
- Take home: Judicious use of available DoF; use basis vectors that are specific to your needs in the case of a regional or tuned algorithm

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## Satellite Ocean Color Based Harmful Algal Bloom Indicators for Aquaculture Decision Support in the Southern Benguela

Marié E. Smith<sup>1\*</sup> and Stewart Bernard<sup>1,2</sup>



**FIGURE 4** Linear regression analysis between maximum line height and total cell counts **(left)** and between maximum line height and [Chl-a] **(right)**; all data were log-transformed before analysis. The black line represents the regression line with the corresponding equation, coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) and the sample size (N). Samples with more than 50% *Pseudo-nitzschia*, diatoms, or dinoflagellates are shown in red, green, and blue, respectively. The shaded areas represent cell counts and [Chl-a] associated with MLH below 0.0019, 0.0027, and 0.0038, respectively.

#### Smith and Bernard, 2020





## Article Spectral and Radiometric Measurement Requirements for Inland, Coastal and Reef Waters

Peter Gege <sup>1,\*</sup> and Arnold G. Dekker<sup>2</sup>

Remote Sensing of Environment 240 (2020) 111619

Remote sensing of shallow waters – A 50 year retrospective and future directions

Tiit Kutser<sup>a,\*</sup>, John Hedley<sup>b</sup>, Claudia Giardino<sup>c</sup>, Chris Roelfsema<sup>d</sup>, Vittorio E. Brando<sup>e</sup>

# How do/could you use hyperspectral measurements Mentimeter in your research?

To study the spectral signature of different optically active substance in estuarine and its coastal region of different water bodies in Indian region.

For an improved optical classification of transitional waters, by providing more information about the water types.

To resample hyperspectral reflectance to satellite wavelength settings (SRF) to do the match-up;

Derive phytoplankton taxa from a drone- improve HAB monitoring/ inform aquaculture.

Above water radiometer (trios) for Atmospheric correction and distinguishing phyto groups!

Resolving phytoplankton pigment signatures

I would use hyperspectral measurements to determine different phytoplankton functional types - in order to link phytoplankton phenology to phytoplankton type

To identify narrow spectral features;

Try and get rid of the Chl-a absorption interference in phycocyanin absorption spectrum

## Take-home messages:

The question is not as simple as *"how much information can we extract from hyperspectral measurements?"*, but rather,

"which approaches and methods that take advantage of the added information in hyperspectral measurements are relevant to my research question(s)?"

With limited degrees of freedom in hyperspectral measurements alone, consider the incorporation of other types of optical and/or environmental data during algorithm development and application, as well as spatial and temporal resolution requirements.

## Insights from John Cullen, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Canada

John Cullen @JohnCullenOcean



### John Cullen @JohnCullenOc... · 5/24/22 ··· Replying to @JohnCullenOcean

The paper addressed the topic I studied under the hugely influential supervision of Richard W. Eppley at the Food Chain Research Group (Scripps). It was written during my post-doc with Trevor Platt at the Marine Ecology Laboratory. Very fortunate to work with world leaders.





John Cullen @JohnCullenOc... · 5/24/22 ··· Trevor Platt, Alan Longhurst and grad student Marlon Lewis commented on the draft — Imagine that!

I considered all comments and made numerous changes. Like many students and post-docs, I eventually forgot that some of the better lines came from my supervisor's edits.



PERSPECTIVES

Forty years ago, my first sole-author

paper went to press (as in printing). I

dredged up some old drafts and the

original reviews to illustrate similarities

and differences between modern and

ancient publications. Some things

have changed and some are the

The Deep Chlorophyll Maximum: Comparing Vertical Profiles of Chlorophyll a

JOHN J. CULLEN

Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Marine Ecology Laboratory, Bedford Institute of Oceanography Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2

CULLEN, J. J. 1982. The deep chlorophyll maximum: comparing vertical profiles of chlorophyll a. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 39: 791 – 803.

The relationship between chlorophyll *a* and phytoplankton biomass (organic carbon content) is highly variable as is the yield of *in vivo* fluorescence per unit chlorophyll. Thus, vertical profiles of chlorophyll or *m vivo* fluorescence must be interpreted with caution if their ecological significance is to be established. Although the variability of carbon-to-chlorophyll interpreted. Vertical profiles from different regions of their formation and maintenance differ widely. Most vertical distributions of chlorophyll can be established, and their formation and maintenance differ widely. Most vertical distributions of chlorophyll can be explained by the interaction between hydrography and growth, behavior, or physiological adaptation of phytoplankton with no special consideration of grazing by herbivores, even though vertical distributions of chlorophyll will be better understood when the reliationships between chlorophyll and phytoplankton and chlorophyll will be better understood when the reliationships between chlorophyll and phytoplankton mass in those profiles is determined.

ALT

same...

Key words: chlorophyll a, fluorescence. phytoplankton, vertical structure



John Cullen @JohnCullenOc... · 5/24/22 ···· Peer review:

THE Gordon Riley (retired) provided comments promptly. He generously allowed me to follow up with a phone call that was a treat (I never met him).

The paper did not offer much to an expert like him, but he was supportive of an earlycareer researcher.

AUTHOR(S)/AUTEUR(S): John J. Cullen TITLE/TITRE: The deep chlorophyll maximum: comparing vertical profiles of		
in our chlorophyll of the state	s but hardly living in the atriat	
This manuscript merits 🕱 does not merit 🗌 publication.	Le texte mérite 📄 ne mérite pas 📄 d'être publié.	
It should be assessed after rewriting  after further	Il faudrait l'évaluer après une nouvelle rédaction 🔲	
research and the second and the second of th	de plus amples recherches	
tains novel and exciting ideas. In my opinion it merits publicat: same level of priority as a paper formation. The manuscript is not overly of the figures are necessary. A to be described adequately in h rived from previously published pursue the details further.	r containing important new in- y long, but I question whether all bout half of them are simple enough t ext, and as all of them are de- work, an interested person can	
Some comments and criticism constructive; I think the manusc recommendation is not contingent		
ALT	Gordon a. Riley	



John Cullen @JohnCullenOc... · 5/24/22 ···· 2nd referee's comments in full, after a 4month wait. This kind of review, familiar to many, should be called what it is: lazy, arrogant and irresponsible. How many papers have been spiked by reviews like this? Fortunately, the editor dismissed it as "not worth waiting for."

This manuscript probably does describe the nature of the chlorophyll maximum, and some of the problem associated with intrepetation of chlorophyll data in the marine area. I'm not left with any clear direction after reading the paper, although the author does spend a lot of time going into the problems. I would expect to see this type of a write-up in either a grant proposal (in the introduction), or a textbook, not a scientific article.



John Cullen @JohnCullenOc... · 5/24/22 ····

40 years on, it is the top-cited article from the journal that year. Editor David Cook made the right call in dismissing "Reviewer 2" and relying on Gordon Riley, who was generous and constructive, if not enthusiastic. My research supervision was great. As always, people matter.





# UNDERSTANDING UNCONSCIOUS BIAS



https://www.ukcoaching.org/resources/topics/diagraminfographic/understanding-unconscious-bias



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#### **Box 1. Satellite Sensors**

**AVIRIS**: Airborne Visible/Infrared Imaging Spectrometer developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

CHIME: Copernicus Hyperspectral Imaging Mission for the Environment

**CHRIS**: Compact High Resolution Imaging Spectrometer aboard the European Space Agency's PROBA-1 satellite

**DESIS**: DLR (German Aerospace Center) Earth Sensing Imaging Spectrometer, a hyperspectral sensor developed and operated collaboratively by the DLR and Teledyne Brown Engineering

**EnMAP**: Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program, a German hyperspectral satellite mission

**HICO**: Hyperspectral Imager for the Coastal Ocean, an imaging spectrometer that was housed on the International Space Station

**MODIS**: Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer, a key instrument aboard NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites

PACE: NASA's Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem mission

**PRISM**: Picosatellite for Remote-sensing and Innovative Space Missions, a technology pathfinder mission of the Intelligent Space Systems Laboratory at the University of Tokyo, Japan

**PRISMA**: Hyperspectral Precursor and Application Mission, a medium-resolution hyperspectral imaging mission of the Italian Space Agency

**SCIAMACHY**: An ESA imaging spectrometer whose primary mission was to perform global measurements of trace gases in the troposphere and stratosphere

SBG: NASA's Surface Biology and Geology mission (formerly HyspIRI)

**TROPOMI**: TROPOspheric Monitoring Instrument onboard the ESA Copernicus Sentinel-5 Precursor satellite



Figure 2. Bottom effects in shallow coastal waters may lead to inaccurate remote sensing retrievals of bottom depth if limited spectral bands are utilized for analysis. This figure shows modeled hyperspectral (solid lines) and multispectral (SeaWiFS wavebands; circles) spectra for two water types, generated by the Hydrolight radiative transfer model (Mobley, 1994). Water 1 (blue) is 6.5 m deep and has low chlorophyll-a and CDOM concentrations with a bottom type of a mixture of soft coral and *Sargassum*, while Water 2 (green) is 13 m deep, "pure water" with a flat green sponge bottom type. By inspection of the hyperspectral spectra, the difference between the two curves is obvious in the 500-600 nm range. However, spectra for the two water types produced using only the SeaWiFS wavebands appear almost identical. (SeaWiFS spectra in this figure were derived by applying the SeaWiFS spectral response function to the hyperspectral signatures).



FIGURE 3 | Narrowband features like chlorophyll fluorescence can be inaccurately estimated when using multi-spectral bands that are distant from the feature, such as the blue bands used in the normalized fluorescence line height (nflh). Examples of (A) water-leaving Reflectance (Rw) spectrum with a typical chlorophyll fluorescence feature and (B) a spectrum representative of high sediment water with no observable chlorophyll fluorescence leads to an erroneously high nflh.